1:McIlwraith E-5 (1922-1924) 1948
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757 about one week. This causes the skin to turn white and draws out the matter.

752 [177] (2) The usual remedy for boils and similar sores is cutting. There are no professional surgeons so that a patient merely requests a friend in whom he has confidence to perform the operation which is now carried out with a metal knife instead of an obsidian blade. A man frequently performs on himself and it is not uncommon to see a Bella Coola sitting nonchalantly with the blood streaming down his leg into a receptacle filled with water. Even when a boil is on the buttocks, it may be cut by sitting down on a knife, but in this case a friend is always present to state when the position is correct.

752 759 *For Ulcers and Abscesses*

A few individuals, at present two at Bella Coola and one at Kimsquit, have the necessary skill to locate and operate on ulcers of the stomach. They have no inherited prerogative, their ability is due solely to practice and good sense. If a person suffers from internal pains and believes them to be caused by an ulcer, he requests one of these men to help him. The practitioner kneads and handles the patient to locate the growth, and suggests operating if he thinks it necessary. He measures off on the blade of a knife the depth required for the incision and asks consent to make such a cut. If the sufferer considers it too deep, he may indicate a shorter distance on the knife, or he may desire a still deeper one. As soon as patient and surgeon have agreed upon the depth of the wound, the latter inserts the knife to the proper distance, twists it around, and draws it out. If he has diagnosed correctly, pus comes pouring out; the wound is drained by the insertion of an eagle quill, and in many cases the patient recovers. Several instances are remembered of too deep cutting, resulting in penetration of the intestines and death. A surgeon is always suitably rewarded for his work.

It is believed that such operations were performed before the introduction of metal knives. Whether or not this be true,

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it is certain that ones of this type took place about 1870. No information could be obtained about other surgical practices. The Bella Coola are unacquainted with either trephining or cupping, and it is most unlikely that they performed more than cutting and the setting of broken limbs. Though incisions are primarily for boils and abscesses, one may be made in case of any obstinate pain, in the belief that some foreign matter has entered the body and must be extracted.

For Stomach-Ache (two means)

(1) Peel the outer surface of red elderberry roots and chew a section until all the juice has been squeezed forth and swallowed; then spit out the tasteless bark and take a second piece. This must be continued for some time. It is dangerous to allow the liquid to remain within the stomach, so warm water must be taken as an emetic.

(2) Take five roots of the plant *ma'xwal·i*, each about one-tenth of an inch in diameter and one inch in length, grind them to powder and pour on water. Warm the mixture to body heat and drink in large quantities. This acts as an emetic and the patient feels hungry after vomiting. If cooked for a longer time, the roots provide a valuable food.

This medicine is not sufficiently potent for serious attacks.

For Stomach-Ache, and also for Other Internal Pains (two means)

(1) Strip the bark from a *käk'telp* (birch?) branch a few inches in diameter and about three feet in length, and boil for an hour in a small amount of water. Care must be taken not to boil the decoction too long or it will become poisonous. Drink about four cupfuls of the mixture. It causes the stomach to heave violently, followed by vomiting. Then drink warm water, which also acts as an emetic. Take a further potion of the medicine, then more water, and continue with alternate doses until the vomit is clear. This medicine is so powerful that a patient usually recovers by the following day.